Princes Street from Calton Hill

THE OLD AND NEW TOWNS OF EDINBURGH

Edinburgh has been the capital of Scotland for over 500 years, and became particularly renowned for its writers, artists, philosophers and scientists. Its distinctive skyline and stunning views are recognised around the world.

The Old and the New Towns of Edinburgh together comprise one of the most beautiful cityscapes in the world, inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1995. The inscription recognised the striking contrast and quality in architecture between the medieval Old Town and the Georgian New Town.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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FORTH BRIDGES FORUM

www.forth-bridges.co.uk/forth-bridge/world-heritage

NETWORK RAIL

www.networkrail.co.uk

Front cover, clockwise from top right
The Forth Bridge from North Queensferry, Skara Brae, The Antonine Wall at Watling Lodge, Edinburgh from Arthur's Seat, New Lanark, St Kilda

Contact us through an online Sign Language Interpreter
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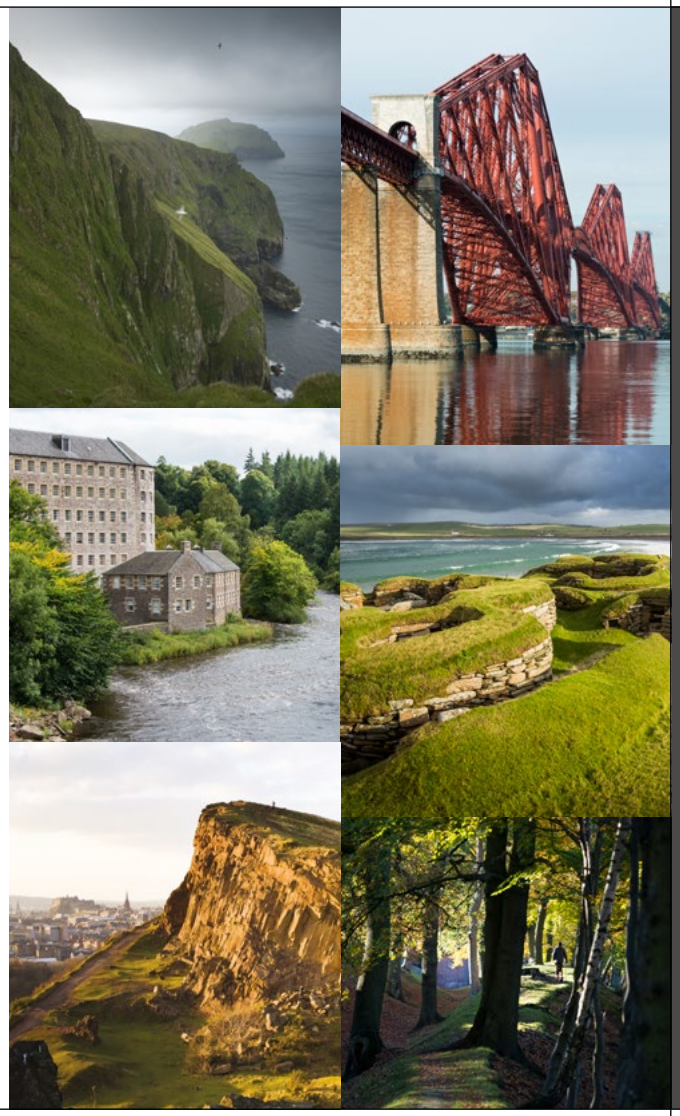
WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN SCOTLAND



World Heritage Sites are cultural and/or natural sites of outstanding universal value. They are nominated by their countries of origin for inclusion on the World Heritage List. Being accepted onto the List by the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a high accolade. It provides international recognition of the importance of these sites.

There are currently six World Heritage Sites in Scotland inscribed for a range of cultural and natural heritage values. Each site has a Management Plan, as required by UNESCO. These Plans set out the special qualities and values of the sites, establish frameworks for decision making, and provide information on threats and opportunities for each site.

Once a World Heritage Site is inscribed on the List, there is a duty to protect, conserve and present it for future generations.

Rough Castle

FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE (THE ANTONINE WALL)

Nearly 2,000 years ago, the Antonine Wall was the north-west frontier of the Roman Empire. Built on the orders of the Emperor Antoninus Pius it ran from modern Bo'ness on the Firth of Forth to Old Kilpatrick on the River Clyde.

It was inscribed as a cultural World Heritage Site in 2008, becoming part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site, alongside Hadrian's Wall and the German Limes.

Stones of Stenness

HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY

Five thousand years ago the prehistoric people of the Orkney Islands began constructing some extraordinary monuments out of stone. In 1999, several of these were inscribed on the World Heritage List as the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site.

Individually, the sites are masterpieces of design and stonework construction. Collectively, they represent one of the richest surviving Neolithic landscapes in western Europe.

The Forth Bridge from North Queensferry

THE FORTH BRIDGE

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2015, the great steel span of the Forth Bridge carries the railway across the estuary of the River Forth. 2.5km long and 110m high, it represents the pinnacle of 19th-century bridge construction, and is the world's greatest cantilever trussed bridge. When opened in 1890 it had the longest bridge spans in the world. It was also the world's first major mild steel structure, and today remains a potent symbol of the UK's industrial, scientific, architectural and transport heritage.

The Bridge is a unique milestone in the evolution of bridge and other steel construction. It is innovative in its design, concept, materials, and enormous scale, and marks a landmark event in the application of science to architecture. The Bridge is a working crossing, and today is busier than ever.

NEW LANARK

Founded in 1785 the impressive sandstone cotton mills of New Lanark were built by an enterprising Scot, David Dale, in a dramatic gorge in Lanarkshire, close to the famous Falls of Clyde. The village became known world-wide under the enlightened management of Dale's son-in-law, the social pioneer Robert Owen.

In 2001, UNESCO inscribed New Lanark as a World Heritage Site, in acknowledgement of its significant role in the development of model industrial settlements.

New Lanark and the River Clyde

The Street, Hirta

ST KILDA

St Kilda is a small archipelago in the North Atlantic 100 miles west of mainland Scotland. It was home to a unique community until 1930 and is an important seabird colony. The islands were first inscribed as a natural World Heritage Site in 1986. In 2004, this was extended to include the surrounding marine environment.

In 2005, St Kilda became one of the few World Heritage Sites inscribed for both natural and cultural qualities.